



Network News

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SEANet

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SEANet Welcomes New Members

By Nelda Brown, Executive Director

We want to send a *SEANet Salute* out to several new members of our SEA family. These folks are either new to service-learning, new to their respective SEAs, or just new to SEANet. Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

Judy Salvo, Alaska Department of Education

Karen Ghidotti, Arkansas Department of Education

Colleen Murakami, Hawaii Department of Education

Evelyn Holt Otten, Indiana Department of Education

Paula Kaiser, Michigan Community Service Commission

Michelle Kamenov, Minnesota Department of Children & Families Learning

Susan Paige-Morgan, New Hampshire Department of Education

Alba Iris Rivera Pagan, Puerto Rico Department of Education

Kristin Fink, Utah State Office of Education

Andrea McManus, Vermont Department of Education

Jennifer Stuart, Virginia Department of Education

This seems like a good time to remind everyone about our SEA Mentoring Initiative. Recognizing that state-level practitioners may need some extra help and attention, SEANet can help establish mentoring relationships. Mentors are available for staff members that are new to their positions as well as those in need of advice or assistance. Mentors are veteran leaders who are available to offer tips and share personal experience on how to effectively manage a statewide service-learning initiative. This informal relationship can be a resource for support and advice as you continue to explore strategies and techniques that work best for your needs. Visit the SEANet website at: http://www.seanetonline.org/secure/ta_request/info2.cfm to request a SEA Mentor today.

Spotlight on Next Steps National Symposium

By Stan Potts, Community Education and Service-Learning Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Twenty-five State Education Departments sent teams to a three-day National Symposium in San Diego on May 16-18, 2001. The primary purpose of the Symposium was to provide a forum to discuss strategies to integrate policy and service-learning. The SEA teams each left the Symposium with an action plan and five "bold steps."

The National Symposium was organized by a six-member partnership that included the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), and the Education Departments in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin, SEANet, and the Compact

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for Citizenship and Learning. The project was funded by a FASL grant from the Corporation for National Service (CNS).

To view pictures of this event go to:
<http://www.seanetonline.org/symposium/pics.cfm>

To view a list of the states that participated go to:
<http://www.seanetonline.org/symposium/intent.cfm>

Senate Passes ESEA

On June 14, the Senate voted 91-8 on final passage of S.1, the bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This overwhelming vote indicates the importance given by both Democrats and Republicans to move ESEA forward. The bill specifically includes service-learning as authorized activities for program enhancement projects under Title III (Bilingual Education, Language Enhancement, and Language Acquisition Programs), and for state education agency programs, governor's programs, local drug and violence prevention programs, and national programs under Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities). Service-learning is also included as innovative assistance under Title V (Public School Choice and Flexibility).

The bill also includes some major advances such as a commitment to full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) through the mandatory side of the budget. It has many other important features, including provisions for continuing SEA administration of ESEA.

All Senators voted for final passage, except the following who voted against: Sens. George Voinovich (R-OH); Robert Bennett (R-UT); Jesse Helms (R-NC);

James Inhofe (R-OK); Jon Kyl (R-AZ); Don Nickles (R-OK); Ernest Hollings (D-SC); and Russ Feingold (D-WI). Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) was absent.

Before being sent to President Bush, the Senate version must be reconciled in a conference committee with the House version, H.R. 1. Service-learning is mentioned only once in this bill, as an allowable use of funds under Title IV (Promoting Informed Parental Choice and Innovative Programs) of the legislation.

Conferees have not been chosen yet, and any decisions will most likely be made after the July 4 recess.

President Bush Selects CNS CEO

President Bush is expected to nominate Leslie Lenkowsky to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Lenkowsky is a leading scholar on philanthropy and volunteering, and has been active in bipartisan efforts to advance national service for more than a decade. Former President Clinton twice appointed him to serve on the Corporation's board of directors, and former President George Bush named him to the Corporation's predecessor agency, the Commission on National and Community Service.

"I am deeply honored by the President's plan to nominate me," said Lenkowsky. "As a board member for eight years, I have seen national service become a powerful force for changing lives and improving communities. If confirmed, I look forward to fulfilling the President's vision of invigorating citizenship and helping those whom prosperity has left behind, while making national service even more effective and successful," Lenkowsky said.

Lenkowsky has served since 1997 as a professor of philanthropic studies and

Upcoming Dates

August 1

Progress Report Due for January 1 – July 30

September 19-21

CNS Learn & Serve America Grantee Meeting
Washington, DC

September 30

2002 National Service Learning Conference Application to Present Due

public policy at Indiana University/Purdue University in Indianapolis. He is also a research associate of The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. From 1990 to 1997, Lenkowsky served as President of the Hudson Institute and from 1985 to 1990, he served as the President of the Institute for Educational Affairs. He is a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College and received a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Section 193 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, provides that the Corporation shall be headed by an individual "who shall serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, and who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate."

Accordingly, when the President formally submits a nomination to the Senate for this position, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (under Chairman Kennedy) would proceed with the confirmation process: interviews, investigations, hearings, and formal committee action sending the nomination to the floor of the Senate for final disposition (either accepting or rejecting the nominee). If confirmed, the nominee takes office after being administered the oath of office.

Similarly, section 192 of the Act provides that members of the Corporation for National Service are appointed by the President, with the advice and consent

of the Senate, to a term of five years.

The members of the Board, in turn, elect the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, "and such additional officers of the Board as the Board determines to be appropriate."

National Service-Learning Partnership Update

The National Service-Learning Partnership, and outgrowth of the Learning In Deed initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, enrolled almost 800 organizations and individuals during its Founding Member signup period, which ended June 1. Founding membership in the organization includes individuals and organizations from 44 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 20 percent of the country's state education agencies joined the Partnership as Founding Members along with many county offices of education, school districts, and individual schools. The Corporation for National Service, which operates the Learn and Serve America program, has also joined.

Marking the growing national commitment to service-learning as an educational strategy, many of the major national educational organizations have also joined the Partnership, among them, the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, the American Association of School Administrators, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Middle School Association, and the National School Boards Association.

The Partnership's Founding Membership also consists of a broad

array of organizations that provided critical support for service-learning and will further strengthen the Partnership's efforts to ensure that every student has a high quality service-learning experience every year. It includes more than 50 local and national youth service groups, as well as many colleges and universities that partner with schools to provide service experiences. Numerous teacher preparation and research organizations will help the Partnership address issues of policy support, practice quality and impact.

SEANet Committee Updates

Finance: Mark Sandt, Chair

At the SEANet spring meeting, members voted to impose a fee structure that will provide funding to support SEANet operations. This is a significant step for the organization as it provides a predetermined amount of operating funds, but we are also committing our state's resources to SEANet. With full participation, the fee structure will generate 20-25 percent of the current operating budget of SEANet.

With this commitment of resources, some of the burden of fundraising will be lifted off of the SEANet staff and the Finance Committee, thus allowing more time to focus on other streams of funding. More importantly, I see this is as a critical step in sustaining this organization. This is not only an allocation of a portion of our funds, but a clear statement of our belief that as state agencies we understand our own needs and that we can be our own best advocates. We have come a long way since the St. Louis eight (okay, a name that I made up) – a loose group of

individuals interested in advancing school based community service learning. We are now a professional organization with a dedicated staff working on behalf of its membership.

The Finance Committee is seeking members as well as a Chairperson to provide fiscal recommendations to the Executive Board. The SEANet Treasurer serves as the liaison to the Board. Interested parties should contact Nelda Brown at (202) 336-7031 or neldab@ccsso.org.

Training and Technical Assistance: Luke Frazier and Jeff Miller, Co-Chairs

The next T&TA Committee conference call is scheduled for Friday, July 13 at 1:00 pm Eastern Time. We'll get the dialing instructions to you later but please mark your calendar. The call is open to current and future committee members.

Agenda items:

1. Development of a state Learn and Serve directors manual
2. Development of a proposal to CNS for cross-stream, cross-state TTA visits
3. Responses to the SEANet survey on possible regular national symposia for SEAs
4. CNS request for SEANet input on September grantee meeting
5. Review of SEANet SEA inventory

Please e-mail Luke or Jeff if you have additional items:

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